

BUSINESS AS USUAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. BENTSEN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I took this time today in part as a point of personal privilege. Earlier today, while I was with some students from Craifton Academy, which is in my district in Houston, having taken them to the Senate Chamber and then to the House Chamber and then to Statutory Hall and walking out, our colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. WALKER], felt the need to take the floor and seek to smear the reputation of eight of the other Members of this body, myself included.

Mr. Speaker, I assume Mr. WALKER was attempting to infer that somehow Democratic freshmen sought to hide links to organized crime and organized labor because of contributions we may have received from members of labor unions or, worse, to try and tie the members themselves to organized crime.

Of course, both are incorrect. But a more troubling problem exists.

This all started last week when the eight Democratic freshmen brought to light a memorandum dated April 23 from Mr. WALKER and the gentleman from Iowa, Mr. NUSSLE, who is part of the Republican leadership, asking committees to use official time to root out information on the Clinton administration on labor union bosses and corruption in order to expose anecdotes that amplify these areas so that these could be used for political purposes.

First, the memo which Mr. WALKER authored, along with Mr. NUSSLE, would appear to constitute a violation of House rules prohibiting the use of taxpayer resources for political purposes. Let me quote from the House ethics manual, which says, under campaign activity by House employees, chapter 5, page 201, "no campaign activities should be performed in a manner that utilizes any official resources."

Of course, all of us agree that our committees should be looking for fraud, waste, and abuse. They should not have to be told to do that. That is a charge of the committees. But it appears that the Republican leadership now wants to use them for political purposes.

I suppose that we can investigate Mr. WALKER's contributions over his long tenure in the House and fabricate all sorts of false accusations and inferences if we wished to do that.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, we see a continuing pattern on the part of the Republican majority, the Republican leadership who so fervently disavowed the business as usual practices of the past 40 years with their so-called Contract With America. Now they seem intent upon engaging in such behavior. Mr. WALKER seeks to evade his potential infraction by engaging in a smear of his detractors.

Our majority leader, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY], told the Houston Chronicle that the freshman Democrats who called this behavior into question overreached and simply do not understand how things work up here. Today we read that the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. BOEHNER], chairman of the House Republican Conference, was handing out checks from tobacco PAC's. I do not care what kind of PAC's they are, whether they are tobacco PAC's or labor PAC's, but was handing out checks from tobacco PAC's to Republican Members on the floor of this the people's House. It was reported that one Republican member stated that, "If it is not illegal, it should be." And it should.

Mr. Speaker, The Houston Chronicle summed up this problem correctly in an editorial this week entitled "Politics as Usual" where it stated, "the voters did not hand control of the Congress to the Republicans so they could engage in the sins of their predecessors."

I believe they are right on mark with that.

Mr. Speaker, the other problem that exists today and is underscored by Mr. WALKER's actions is the increasing lack of comity and decorum among Members of the House. History tells us that at one time it was the greatest dishonor to insult another Member on the floor of the House. But today it has become all too commonplace.

Mr. Speaker, I find it hard to believe that Mr. WALKER believes in a society where one is judged not by their ability to work together and get along but, rather, to attack and tear down and smear your rivals where any means justifies the ends.

I came from business, from the private sector, unlike many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. I relish competition and a good fight, but I respect my competitors. I am not so sure that this House wants to follow such practices anymore.

Mr. WALKER should review again our letter and the comments that we made to the press. We did not ask for investigation. We just said, stop it. Apologize. Pay back the taxpayers if you used any of their money. But most of all, follow the rules.

We teach our children, do unto others as you would do unto them. That is how I raised my children. That is how I was raised. Perhaps that is how this House ought to operate so we can get back some decorum and comity and get away from the slash and burn politics which is destroying it.

BABE DAVIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, one of the true benefits and best parts about serving in public office is getting to know so many people.

The constituents in Georgia's First Congressional district are an outstanding example of great Americans who have made this Nation the wonderful country that it is. One of the examples is Mr. Babe Davis. He's a friend of mine, a Georgia hero, and truly a great American.

In 1940, Woodrow Wilson "Babe" Davis, a resident of Odum, GA, gave up professional baseball, but to this day, baseball fans haven't forgotten about him. In the late 1930's, Davis pitched to Lou Gehrig and Joe DiMaggio, yet in 1996, he still receives up to 5 or 6 autograph requests a week.

Davis says he got his start in baseball by throwing sticks and corn cobs as a small child. When he was in grade school he would always carry his glove and a ball and bat with him wherever he went. One teacher commented that she saw him carrying his gear so much that she was going to start calling him "Babe" after Babe Ruth. She did and the name stuck.

Davis received a baseball scholarship to attend Brewton-Parker Institute before he had completed the 11th grade and following his success pitching at Nicholls High School. He struck out 23 batters in one game at Brewton-Parker.

Davis signed his first professional contract with the Cleveland Indians in 1934, making \$250 per month for their farm team. During his 7-year professional baseball career, the Cincinnati Redlegs and the Toronto Maple Leafs picked up his contract.

Davis' career began to wind down when he injured his arm during a one-hitter he pitched for Toronto against Rochester in 1937. After playing for teams in Jacksonville, FL, and Valdosta, GA, Davis gave up the game for good. While starting another career with the Georgia Department of Revenue, Davis kept his love for the game alive. For the last 25 years, he has been spearheading "Babe's Mighty Mites," a children's baseball instructional program that touches the lives of 320 youngsters in Odum.

Babe Davis epitomizes the love and dedication of the people of the First District of Georgia. We are all proud to have him as a neighbor and a friend. He crossed paths with some of baseball's all-time greats. And while his professional baseball career may have been short-lived, Davis' enthusiasm for the sport has not. Just ask 320 children in Odum, GA.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. KANJORSKI] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. KANJORSKI addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

PRESIDENT REAGAN COMMANDS US—REMEMBER OUR HEROES, REMEMBER OUR PAST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from California [Mr. DORNAN] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, today is my, one of my brother's birthdays, May 10. He has two sons out of five